

very good - generally correct

At

Inaugural dissertation

On

Pneumonia Syphilitica.

By

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of

North Carolina

alimentary

syphilis

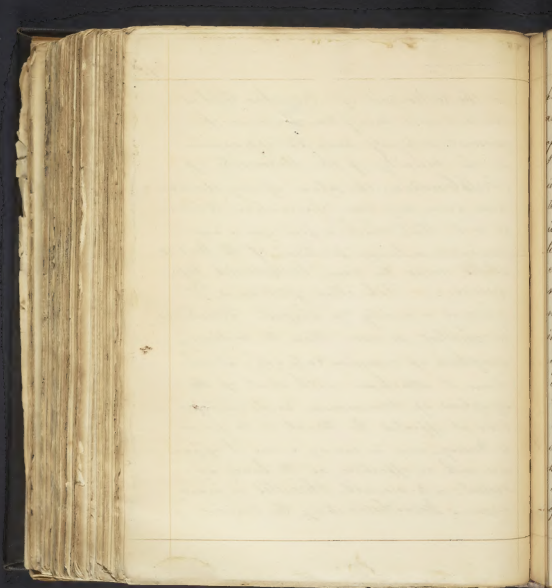
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In the latter part of November eighteen hundred and twenty two, an disease of unusual malignity made its appearance, in the vicinity of the University of North Carolina; the place of my residence, and from my own observation, I believe it to be that, which a few years ago pervaded a large portion of the United States, under the name Pneumonic Typhoides. — Like other epidemics, it assumed a variety of shapes. Sometimes it exhibited no more than the ordinary symptoms of common catarrh; at other times it attacked with most of the symptoms of Pneumonia; in some cases it affected the throat in the form of Quincy; and in many cases it appeared with an affection of the head so violent, as to resemble Phrenitis in some degree. Notwithstanding the various



forms in which it appeared, the prevailing was in a large majority of cases a species of typhoid; at least I am confident that few cases occurred, in which the antiphlogistic plan of treatment, was for any time persisted in without manifest injury to the patient. On the other hand it may be confidently asserted, that no class of remedies ~~except~~ those, calculated to remove debility, or counteract the evils incident to a typhoid condition of the system, could be relied on as decidedly and ultimately beneficial.

Whatever form the disease assumed, it generally commenced with a chill, succeeded by alternate sensations of heat and cold, and accompanied with a sense of extreme debility; the chills in some cases, continuing for a day

or two; while in others it did not go off until the disease gave way.

In a few cases of excessive malignity, the coldness remained until death ensued. One case of the kind came under my own immediate observation; in which the patient was hurried off in twenty four hours. During the coldness, which ushered in the complaint, there was frequently violent pain in the head, attended with considerable nausea, and sometimes with vomiting.

The last mentioned symptom appeared to be most troublesome when the head was most violently affected. The matter discharged by vomiting, was sometimes bilious; at other times only a viscid phlegm, mixed with the common contents of

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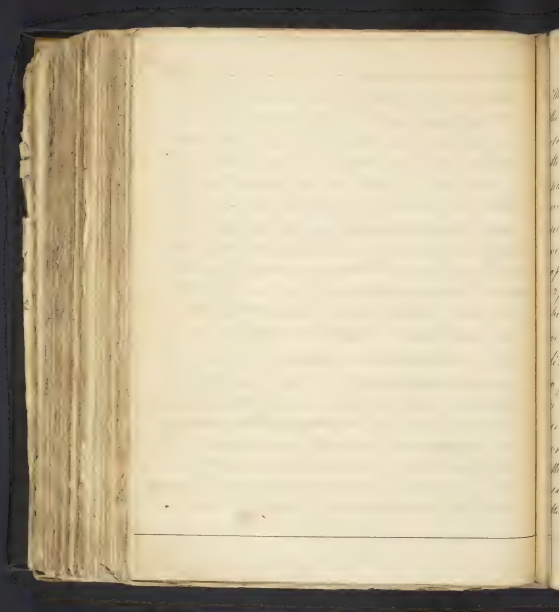
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the stomach. — A diarrhoea now and then attended the disease, and was generally an unfavourable symptom of the disorder, much its first appearance in the throat; it often descended into the chest in a day or two, producing a suffocating cough, and very laborious breathing: when the pain deserted the throat and fixed itself in the head, about the fourth day, death soon followed. When the breast was the seat of the disorder, the patient complained of pain in some part of the thorax, sometimes in the right, and sometimes in the left side; but most frequently about the centre of the sternum. The pain was seldom very acute, often so inconsiderable, as not to be constantly felt or

observed. In the pleuritic form, a cough generally attended, which fatigued the patient much without relieving him; and in most cases seemed to have little or no effect, except that of increasing the shortness and anxiety of breathing, which incessantly aggravated the sufferings of the patient. — Delirium was less frequent in this disease, than in any other of equal violence I have ever witnessed.

In weak and relaxed constitutions, there was often a large effusion of mucous in the bronchie of the lungs, which gave rise to a loose cough, and as the disease advanced, and the respiration became more difficult created a rattling in the throat many hours before death. —

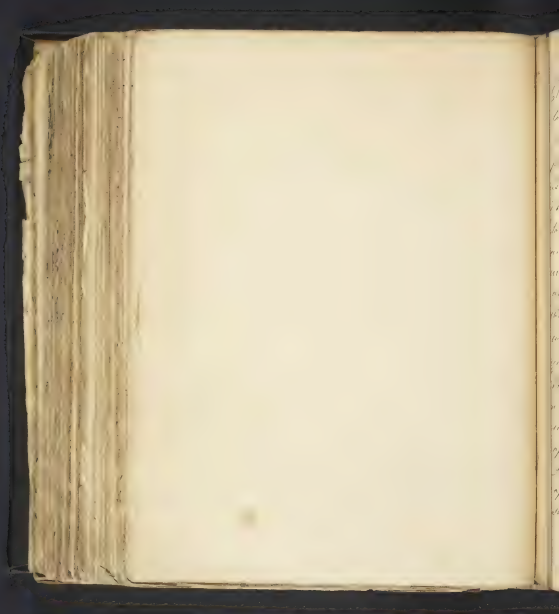
In more vigorous constitutions the cough was less, sometimes dry and hoarse. —



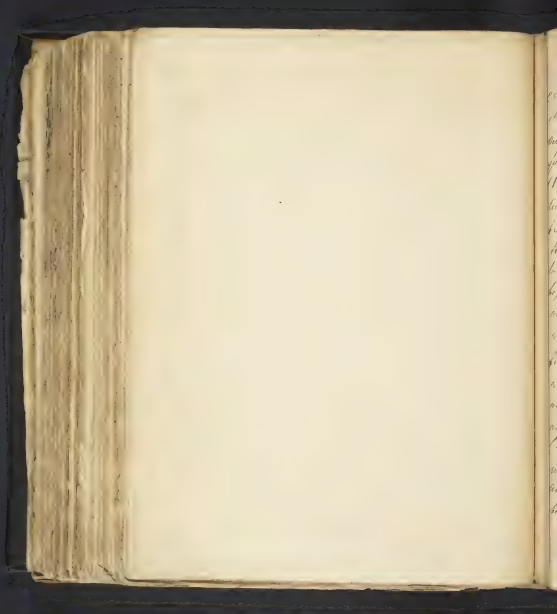
the greater the exertion, and fatigue, attending the cough, in general the greater was the danger. The disease when it attacked the throat, was for the most part catarrhical, (particularly when it was violent) with considerable swelling of one or both sides of the neck, externally. When this swelling extended to one or both sides of the chest, and presented a livid appearance; the greatest danger was to be apprehended. The throat was more or less tumefied, and inflamed; but the lining membrane, instead of presenting a florid, or crimson colour, discovered a clay or dusky coloured redness, with relaxation and pain. Sp. Throat spots or pimples occasionally occurred on the fauces; but acute, dry, and constant excoriations of the Membranes, were by far the most frequent appearances exhibited.



The internal swelling of the orbit
 was seldom alarming; in at least
 it never proceeded to such a degree
 as to produce suppuration. When the
 inflammation was abated, the swelling
 of the face, was in many cases so great,
 as to close one or both eyes for a few
 hours. In a majority of cases the
 tongue was moist, inclining to a reddish
 or yellow colour; near the root of it
 the colour seemed to become gradually
 more yellow. In some instances it
 was dry and brown, and in others
 it assumed a dark or livid ap-
 pearance. The diversified forms
 of this disease, presented a correspon-
 dent diversity in the pulse. —
 In cases affecting the throat and
 breast, the pulse was often much full
 and throbbing, without hardness or tension.



Sometimes it was small, inclining
 to hardness, with a thrack at transition;
 and sometimes readily to the slightest
 pressure; at other times particularly
 in the disease returned to a fatal
 issue, the volume of the artery began
 to diminish, the pulse intermitted,
 and continued to beat irregularly
 until the patient expired. — In cases
 affecting the heart with pain, the pulse
 was quick and weak. When the heart
 was more violently affected, it was
 quick, weak and undulating. When
 this last kind of pulse ceased, then ge-
 nerally occurred an obstinate catarrh
 in the extremities, and on the surface
 of the body, with shivering and rigors.
 In some of the more manageable forms
 of the disease, the pulse was sometimes
 so nearly natural, that it required.



considerable attention to distinguish it from a healthy pulse, but upon very minute examinations, it was found quick, yielding, and compressible. — That his peculiarity of the pulse sometimes occurred, at which times it is known, no interval could be perceived; the artery here seemed ~~normal~~ to be constantly contracting, so that before one contraction was completed, another had begun. This confused and lurching action of the pulse, was frequently attended with great giddiness, and dimness of vision; distraction and alienation of mind, involuntary sickness, and death was closed the scene. Respiration was affected in all the most malignant forms of this disease and the degree of danger appeared to be determined by the greater or less

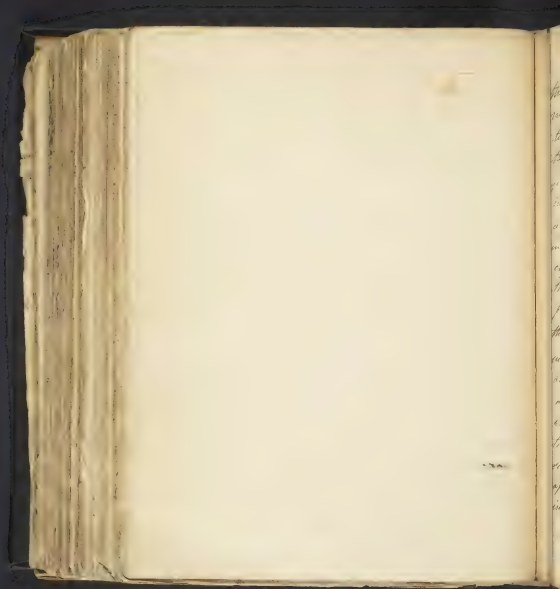


angement of the important functions.

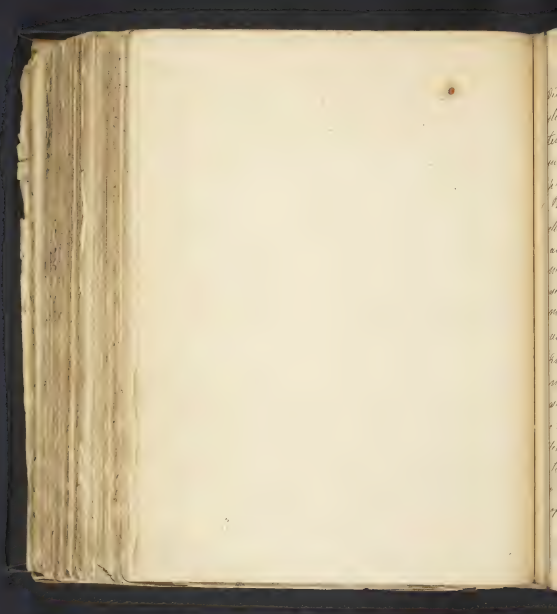
In the most forms of this disease, the breathing was more or less hurried, externally noisy, and imperfect; the lungs were appeared, to undergo a full and natural expansion —

In the milder forms the respiration as though not in of her affected, as to be calmness, or distressing, was always hurried and sometimes irregular. —

In cases of a still milder nature, respiration, together with the pulse and appetite, remained unchanged, or but little impaired. — In these latter cases the disease was ^{most} frequently confined to the throat and head, as to the hands and eyes. The skin whether hot or cold, was generally dry in this disease at its commencement. About the termination of it according to the extent



there was universal diaphoresis, or a more profuse perspiration, confined to the head, neck, and hands of the body. — The urine was but little changed in colour, in quantity it was somewhat increased. — The duration of the disease was always uncertain. I often observed palsy in a short time, but some cases continued eight or nine days; most commonly it terminated fatally about the fourth or fifth day. — Of the remote cause of this disease, but little is ascertained; in common with other epidermies, its origin is traced in closed chest. Abscesses. — As it regards the exciting causes, they consist in violence and a tendency to induce stability of the system; such as exposure to violent transitions of temperature, excess in diet, roughness indulgence in the use of spirituous liquors



Violent exercise, deprivation of necessary sleep, finally every thing which has a tendency, either directly or indirectly to induce debility, or weaken the vital powers of the system.

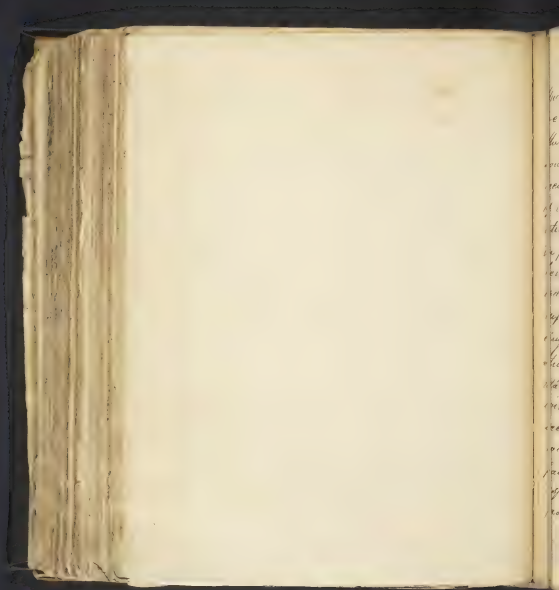
In the treatment of this for miserable disease, much may be gained by our attention to the symptoms. Of the milder forms of it in which I have seldom failed to observe, the most manifest indications of typhus are almost invariably, after a moderate evacuation of the stomach and alimentary canal, violent or anodyne stimulant and tonic emetics.

Some cases of a more severe nature terminated favourably under the same treatment, unaccompanied to the greater severity of the symptoms, not by cases of extreme violence, the malignity and



rapid progress of the disease, such
as to baffles the most skillful medicines.

When called upon to prescribe for
a patient, our first attention should
be directed to the state of the pulse,
and respiration, and our first care
should be to restore warmth to the system.
To effect this purpose it was necessary
to order a mixture of Volatile Oils of
Camomile and Sanguin's Elixir, every
two or three hours, with a cup of (wine)
cherry, or strong marsh-mallows tea between
the doses. Should the pain not become
stronger in a day or two, in cases re-
quiring stronger stimuli benedict's Tincture
should be used as a constant drink.
The Volatile Alkali Camphor and other
powerful stimulants were given
with the most beneficial effects, from
the first attack of the disease. —



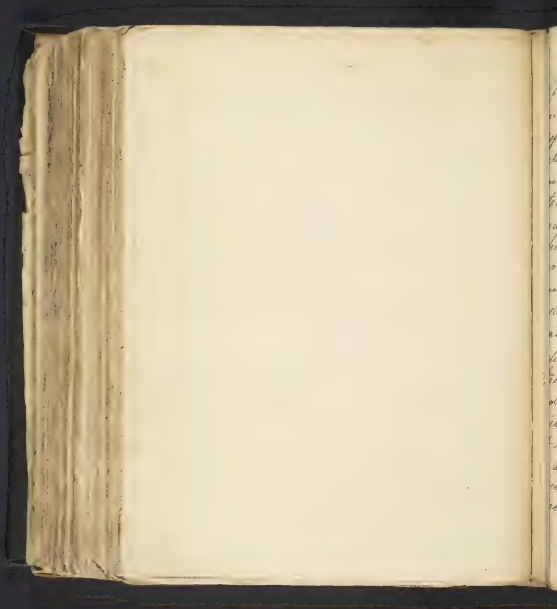
Under the use of these remedies with the
 occasional use of anodynes, and
 the judicious use of nutriment, the patient
 soon began to amend and finally
 recovered. Instead of the Volatile Spirit
 of ammonia, and peroxide, a combina-
 tion of the Carbonate and Euclypha
 in pills, was often given with the same
 beneficial effects. When the disease
 was attended, with swelling and
 inflammation of the throat, not win-
 ning a very malignant character; a
 strong Volatile Liniment was com-
 menced with Vinegar, or flannel wet
 with ~~Hydrochloric~~ ^{Hydrofluoric} acid, was found use-
 ful. Blistering added to these
 was highly beneficial; and seldom
 failed when accompanied with cor-
 responding general respiration 'o
 produce salutary results the same



15th

External applications, together with the local detraction of blood by cups, and likewise the same constitutional treatment consequently beneficial in cases affecting the breast, provided the patient's breathing was not convulsive or laborious, (a circumstance generally dangerous and often fatal.

Opium with Calatite alkali, and brandy freely given appeared in such cases to afford the only relief. The warm bath, and a variety of warm applications in addition to the remedies already mentioned have been often and extensively used. In the early stage of the disease, when the head was affected with a swelling of the face and eyes, and a superficial coldness of the body; these remedies proved eminently useful.



Of the advantage of general bleeding
in this disease, I have had but little
experience. In the hands of some practi-
tioners I have reason to believe it pro-
ved mischievous. Owing to the great
tendency to syncope, purging when
carried to any extent, often proved
hurtful, and even fatal. Emetics
were by far more clearly indicated,
and were resorted to in the early
stage of the disease, with singular
advantage. The larger portion of
diaphoretics and expectorants were
^{often} resorted to, in vain, but if
diaphoresis was induced the happi-
est results were anticipated —
Though whenever ^{our} attempts to bring
on any expectoration and natural
diaphoresis, and implicitly
rely on such common auxiliaries

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will often be disappointed. —
They must be preceded by medi-
cines calculated to sustain the
vascular action and excitement
of the system.

